

AGN. NO.

March 26, 2013

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND GLORIA MOLINA

Relates to Agenda Item #19

Sheriff's Medical Services Bureau Budget

There has been a great deal of concern and inquiry regarding the Sheriff's Department (Sheriff) budget particularly surrounding unincorporated area patrol services and personnel deployment. In an effort to increase transparency and budget accountability of Sheriff patrol services, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Auditor-Controller (A-C) have recommended the creation of four new budget units to facilitate the monitoring of these services. However, transparency and accountability are similarly needed in the Sheriff's Medical Services Bureau (MSB)

The Sheriff's MSB medically screens approximately 144,000 inmates each year and the Sheriff estimates that approximately 60% of all inmates that enter the jails receive some medical services. The MSB provides primary medical care and some specialty care in various critical areas of radiology, neurology, urology, ophthalmology, dentistry, infectious diseases, pharmacy, general obstetrics, and gynecology at a cost of \$182 million per year.

In addition to the services provided by the Sheriff's MSB, the Department of Health

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Services (DHS) provides inpatient care and all other specialty services to Los Angeles County (County) inmates and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) provides mental health services to inmates. DHS incurs approximately \$35.1 million in cost for the services it provides and DMH incurs approximately \$24 million in cost for its services. Although the total County cost for medical care to inmates is approximately \$241.1 million annually, a 2012 review of the MSB by the Auditor-Controller indicated that the MSB did not have detailed workload data including information about clinic visits, inpatient days, physician contacts, and nurse contacts. Furthermore, some workload information is tracked manually and cannot be easily summarized or reported.

The lack of detailed workload data prevents the County from assessing the efficacy of the services being delivered to inmates and the appropriateness of the cost for these services. A separate budget unit to capture these costs would not only provide a better basis for planning and decision making, but also improve fiscal accountability, transparency, and budgetary control.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Auditor-Controller to create a separate budget unit for the Sheriff's Department Medical Services Bureau in the CEO's FY 2013-14 Adopted Budget recommendations in order to enhance fiscal accountability and improve transparency.

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